

WYCOMBE GET AN EARLY TONIC

And second goal gives them fine victory over Walthamstow

Sports Mail Special Report

A CLASSIC goal in the first few minutes put Wycombe Wanderers on their mettle before a big crowd in a thrilling Isthmian League game against the leaders, Walthamstow Avenue, at High Wycombe, and they were well worth a second 20 minutes later.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Lewis; Thomas, Fisher, Gale; Worley, Blair, James, Holmes, Hyde.

Walthamstow Avenue: Granger; Edwards, Betts; Andrews, Prince, Sully; Groves; Agar, Lewis, Minall, Harvey.

Referee: A Bedford (St Albans).

Less than five minutes after the start Blair slung out a shrewd pass to WORLEY, who beat two defenders and coolly judged a ground shot which completely deceived Granger in the Avenue goal to put Wycombe one up.

Wycombe continued to have more of the play although Walthamstow looked dangerous in sweeping counter attacks.

The home side's swift forward moves repeatedly had the Avenue defence on the retreat and once Hyde went near with a cannon-ball shot from another fine pass by Blair.

Playing at the top of their form Wycombe were well worth their second goal after 26 minutes.

James, taking a pass from Worley, centred high from the right wing to enable young STEVE HYDE to head his first goal of the season — a brilliant effort.

A little later Blair headed in from a Hyde centre but Granger made a smart save and Granger again came to the Avenue's rescue when Thomas smashed in a potential winner from long range.

Half-time: Wycombe W. 2, Walthamstow Ave 0.

As Wycombe continued to attack boldly in the second half, James tested Granger with a high shot from the right wing after good work by Worley, and another dangerous cross by Worley was well cleared by Prince.

The inside men, Agar and Minall, tried desperately to get the Walthamstow attack moving but they found the home defence in excellent form, and Brown made two workmanlike saves from Agar.

MISSED EASY CHANCE

For Wycombe, James missed an easy chance when he broke through on his own, shooting wide with only the goalkeeper to beat.

A spectacular header by Hyde, from Worley's pass, was well saved by Granger.

Towards the end Walthamstow claimed a bit more of the play but Beck, Fisher and Lewis continued to play with great coolness and the home goal rarely looked in danger against an unimpressive Walthamstow attack.

At the other end Worley provided a thrill with a shot which hit the crossbar with Granger beaten.

RESULT:
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2
WALTHAMSTOW 0

WYCOMBE HIT PEAK FORM

Wycombe W 2 Walth'tow A 0

WYCOMBE WANDERERS, vastly improved in recent weeks, produced top form to eclipse the Isthmian League leaders Walthamstow Avenue in an entertaining game at High Wycombe.

Walthamstow never recovered from a shock tearaway opening goal by the Wanderers in the first five minutes when skipper Worley dashed in to convert a pass from Blair.

The speed and understanding of the home attack, with Worley and Blair outstanding on the right, repeatedly had the Avenue defence in a panic during a fast and furious first half and it was no more than Wycombe deserved when they increased their lead in the 26th minute with a brilliant header from their young left-winger Steve Hyde.

Avenue's deputy goalkeeper Granger made several timely saves and once left-half Sully headed off the goal-line to keep Wycombe at bay in a succession of slick combined assaults.

Inside-men Alan Minall and Roy Agar tried hard to get the Walthamstow attack moving effectively in the second half but, although they hit back strongly, marksmanship was erratic and the forwards rarely looked like getting the better of the sound defensive Wycombe trio, Beck, Fisher, and Lewis.

In some sparkling Wycombe forward moves, Worley was unlucky not to increase the home lead before the end.